



**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
of
August 1, 2023**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell Called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Bell, Mayor Pro Tem Compian, and Councilmember Ross attended in person. Councilmember Carlson attended virtually from 208 Washington St Mosier, OR, arriving at 11:07 a.m. Councilmember Yancy attended virtually from 450 Summer St. Boston, MA, arriving at 2:56 p.m.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Compian gave the invocation, and City Manager Garcia led the pledge.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.I. Presentation of City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

City Manager Garcia presented the council with his proposed 2023-2024 fiscal year budget.

4.II. Review and Discuss Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Departmental Budgets and All Funds

***Mayor Bell recessed the meeting at 10:27 a.m. and reconvened at 11:06 a.m.*

Mayor Bell opened the floor for questions. Councilmember Ross questioned the package line item on the City Council's budget summary, which City Manager shared was removed on the following page.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian asked clarifying questions regarding the tax worksheet identifying the implications of the three different rates shown on the tax worksheet; the de minimus rate, voter-approved rate, and no new revenue rate.

Mayor Bell shared that he is happy City Manager Garcia presented a budget with a tax reduction, but the council and community want to ensure that the city is as fiscally responsible as possible. He shared concerns about the projected expenditures for the current year, resulting in approximately a 1.5 million dollar deficit. He shared some other observations, such as decreased rates of water purchase, sales tax trends, and identifying fines and fees as an area of concern. He

will be focusing on projections for this budget session.

Development Services Director Van Stavern gave a brief overview of revenues collected by the Development Services department. Discussions related to billboards, coin-operated machines, and rental registrations ensued. Mayor Bell identified that, based upon the numbers presented, the entire code enforcement division is being funded through development fees - which is by design.

James Osteen (2012 Jeridona) questioned a discrepancy regarding the estimate of permit revenue and the permit revenue from the presentation made by the Development Services Director.

***Mayor Bell recessed the meeting at 12:43 p.m. and reconvened at 2:22 p.m.*

Finance Director Kou shared that the projections in the proposed budget are inaccurate because the budgeting software projected that all positions would be filled for the entire year, which the city knows is untrue. Discussions related to correcting the projections for the 2022-2023 Fiscal year ensued.

Councilmember Carlson shared that he believes the projection for the fire revenues is overinflated, and some of the numbers in the proposed budget do not match.

Councilmember Ross questioned the placement of personnel paid through the utility fund.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian questioned the location of the Economic Development Corporation's placement in the city's budget. It was identified that the city's General Fund is considered unrestricted funds. However, the Economic Development Corporation's funding is considered a restricted fund.

***Mayor Bell recessed the meeting at 3:33 p.m. and reconvened at 3:41 p.m.*

There was a brief discussion regarding the conservative nature of the sales tax projections. In comparison, there is an estimated 4% increase over last year.

City Manager Garcia brought it to the council's attention that the commercial sanitation area is running at a deficit. Utility Billing Supervisor Henderson shared that she would need to perform an accounts audit to ensure that the commercial properties are being billed appropriately.

City Manager Garcia gave a brief visual presentation related to water rates. The presentation included figures relating to the reduction in water loss, reduction in water debt in the upcoming fiscal year, revenues from water and sanitation, and the purpose of the city's utility fund.

Discussions related to adding days to the budget discussion were held. The council shared that they desired to add two more days, August 8 and August 10.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

6. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Compian made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Kierra K. Nance, TRMC
City Clerk

Keith Bell
Mayor